

EDITORIALS

Salute to Chemistry

During 1954 America's dynamic chemical industry completed over \$1 billion in new plants and facilities. Another \$1.5 billion will be completed within the next two-and-half years. California's share of the privately financed new construction will be \$45,425,000.

These new facilities mean more jobs, more tax returns for local and federal governments and more new or improved products for the consuming public.

The expenditure on construction itself bolsters our economy in payments for construction, wages and materials.

In 1952, the President's Materials Policy Commission predicted that the chemical industry would quadruple its 1950 productive capacity by 1975. The intervening years have helped to substantiate that prediction.

Next week is "Chemical Progress Week," a time in which the chemical industry reminds the American people of the role it plays in their daily life and the contribution it makes to the economy as a whole.

Locally, the chemical industry has been rapidly expanding. In addition to the Stauffer Chemical Co. which has been here for several years, the Dow Chemical Co. recently moved here and the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corp. is now building a huge plant.

The Shell Chemical Corp. recently purchased three synthetic rubber plants here, and announced plans for further growth of the industry.

Many other plants located in Torrance use chemical processes in a variety of ways.

Chemistry has come a long way since the first witch doctor mixed his brew, and Torrance is one of the biggest beneficiaries of this trend.

Glazed Glances

By Barney Glazer

A general contractor halted a million-dollar construction job until a robin who had built her nest on the project could hatch her eggs. Said the warm-hearted man: "I always respect a fellow contractor." During a recent Sunday drive, a tired father was asked by his five-year-old son to stop at a gas station five times. When the youngster asked the sixth time, his weary father objected: "Why don't you wait? We're almost home." "But, dad," his son argued, "ours isn't certified!" Every time you see a main boulevard open and free of highway rebar-men, it's only because they're fixing the detours. Remember when ten cents could buy a lot of things? My dime has changed.

If you think that folks don't pay any attention to signs, such as "Parking Prohibited," "Don't Walk On the Grass," and "Dump No Rubbish," you're right but guess what is the most disregarded advice of them all. It's the warning on the flap of a pack of matches and it reads: "Close Cover Before Striking." I watched a motorcycle officer stop a man driving a pink sports car. He was wearing a lavender beret, green slacks, mirror sunglasses, and suede shoes. The motorist demanded: "What did I do?" "Nothing," replied the cop. "I just wanted to hear you talk." "Thank you, Barney McDevitt, for sending me that ash tray stamped: 'Persian Room - Beverly Hills Hotel.' Some people just insist on taking all the pleasure out of stealing.

I'm still chuckling about the California group of business men who visited Mexico. They attended church on Sunday and because they couldn't understand the minister, they decided to copy the man directly in front of them. Every time he sat and rose, they did the same. Finally, the minister made an announcement and when the man in front stood up, our four business men did the same. The congregation howled. Later they learned the minister had announced a baptism and had asked the baby's father to stand! If you don't think we're fortunate people, just remember that our country is the only place in the entire world where a citizen can drive up to the unemployment office and collect his check.

The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ, Herald Staff Writer

Since the older generation has been saying since time immemorial that the younger generation has been going to the dogs, it would follow that the present population must be a pretty flea-bitten lot. It seems that the maternal and paternal pride of oldsters in their offspring is often mixed with horror that "We didn't do things like that when we were young."

Parents who used to brag about putting Farmer Jones' privy on top of the City Hall now are shocked when Junior puts somebody's sports car on the City Hall steps. Privies aren't in style nowadays. Maybe the main trouble is, as a local lecturer noted last week, that too many parents forget they were once children.

Despite the opinions of some oldsters, life was pretty much the same in 1955 as they were in 1955 B.C. The main difference is that the things they have to play and/or get in trouble with, change from time to time.

Among the smallest fry, papa and mama didn't get into trouble by drinking charreuse dye, cloxor, or paint remover, as some Torrance youngsters recently did, simply because these things were not available when they were growing up.

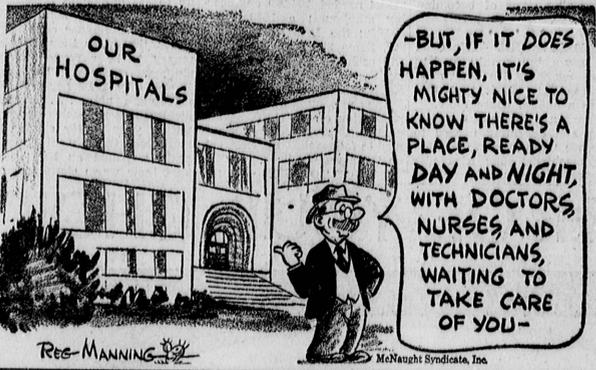
The older generation had its own set of equipment for getting into mischief. Proud parents didn't get their heads caught in a crib or their feet caught in sewer pipes, as other local kids did recently, simply because such things weren't available.

Smaller fry today are still doing everything they can think of, while the same people who were doing everything they could think of a few years ago stand back in horror.

There is a difference, however, between childish curiosity in starting up a bulldozer and childish destruction in breaking out windows.

Nevertheless, plenty of the people who were going to the dogs a few years ago seem things to be doing pretty well now. There's no reason to think the present generation wouldn't do the same.

When You're Well and Healthy—



AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

In the last week I have circled the arc from California to Kansas, talking with industrialists, bankers, wholesalers and retailers, farmers and government officials, trying to gather facts on the economic situation in this cross section of the nation. The optimism among all these various segments of our economy is without precedent in my experience. The slight exception is the farmer, who has been hurt by the drought. The reason for this optimism is... the nation's amazing pay-check today. It is the highest in history... during war or peace... it is some 40 per cent higher than the peak of any peacetime economy in America. Our readers will find it difficult to believe that, for example, according to the most recent figures released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the average income of a family in the city or farm in the U.S. is above \$6,000 per year.

Over 45 per cent living in cities earn today between \$500 and \$10,000 per year. The average on the farm is between \$4,000 and \$8,500. For the first time in history over 75 per cent of the people who work at any job earn more than \$3,000 per year, this including young people just starting to work, and oldsters, or semi-retired people who only work part time. While farm income is lower than city income... about \$1,000 a year lower... the fact that the farmer raises most of their own food gives them almost an equal amount of purchasing power with the city folks. The Department of Commerce figures show that less than 10 per cent of the families of the nation earn more than \$10,000 a year... and less than 4 per cent earn more than \$15,000... making us a truly representative middle-class nation.

Every employer I have talked with in Tampa, Dallas, Kansas City, New Orleans, Chicago, in the past few days confirms the high figures of his pay-roll and new sales records. The banks of Texas have more money on deposit than at any other time in history. We are going through an income revolution... an upgrading of our earning capacities without precedent in our economy. Although the purchasing power of the dollar is stabilized at about 52 cents and taxes are the highest in history, we still have the greatest purchasing power. This is what I learned on the economic state of the nation in the areas I covered.

In some instances... and this will be hard to believe... employees are getting a larger share of the profits of many corporations than those who own the company, namely, the stockholders. An executive of a branch of U.S. Steel showed me some facts. For instance, less than 10 per cent of the stockholders of the largest steel corporation in the world have incomes of more than \$25,000 per year, while 55 per cent of them made less than \$5,000 per year. Among the workers of U.S. Steel, the greatest percentage earn over \$5,000 per year in factory or office. The figures showed that about 50 per cent of Steel's stockholders made about \$4500 last year, while the average income of all wage employees (not office or executive) was \$4600 a year. There are more U. S. Steel stockholders in the \$3000 a year class than in any other bracket.

Out of every dollar earned by Steel about 60 cents was paid in taxes. Then Uncle Sam taxed the receiver of the dividend another 9 cents on each dollar... this "double taxation" means that the U.S. government took just under 70 cents out of every dividend dollar from the stockholders or owners. The workers got about 20 per cent... the owners about 6 per cent net.

In spite of the amazing size of the union pay envelope, labor is now negotiating for a guaranteed annual wage plan with the automobile industry, directing its demands to the big two, GM and Ford. Thousands of dollars have already been spent by the UAW-CIO to condition the rank and file of labor to the possibility of a strike if their demands are not met. The CIO is definitely not bluffing, or they would not go as far as they have in presenting the plan to the union memberships. Millions are being collected as a "strike fund." The union may water down its demands as presented, but some kind of guarantee at least appears to be in the wind, if not already settled between Walter P. Reuther of the CIO and either General Motors or Ford. The fact that Reuther is leaving for a labor meeting in Vienna on May 8 does indicate that a strike is not at least planned when the Ford contract expires June 1.

Oilman Replies

Editor, Torrance HERALD:

I am deeply concerned about keeping children off of oilfield equipment, and offer the following suggestions:

I am just finishing a stretch of almost forty years in the oilfields and came to Torrance before there was a town, owning property since 1921. INDUSTRY made the town and Union Tool which is now National Supply was one of the main industries here.

When oil was discovered in the Torrance area Union Tool equipment was used to drill and produce the wells and now they have grown to a world wide concern known as National Supply Co. I should think everyone would be proud of an industry and plant that developed equipment to drill the deepest well in the world.

A pumping unit costs several thousand dollars, fathers help MAKE these tools at National Supply Co., why cut off the business that supplies work for our home owners by placing such tight restrictions on the operators that they cannot continue in the business.

Why not educate the children as to the value of the industries of our town so that they will have a job and a better home in which to live, instead of asking that money be placed around derricks and pumping equipment (other than that required by the State) just because Johnny did not "KNOW BETTER" than to get oil on his toes. Perhaps the father could take him fishing or educate his son as to how oil wells work, or the schools could provide tours and have an oil man explain the workings of an oil well.

Torrance was founded on INDUSTRY—Let us keep our industry.

Ed Pletzschke
2765 W. Carson St.

Parents and Parents

Editor, Torrance Herald:

I attended the Planning Commission's meeting Monday night and heard over two hours of discussion pro and con on oil wells, sumps, and children. (I think one issue not mentioned was real estate. How to increase the value of property by doing away with oil wells.)

I have lived in Torrance over twenty years. There has always been a residential section and the oil field section. These wells and sumps are not something new in Torrance. They are large enough to have been seen by anyone purchasing property in the oil field. In turn, the purchase price of the property was no doubt cheaper than a lot without such "Attractive Nuisances." At the present time I live on Anapola where there are no wells. We have recently purchased a lot on Eldorado by Maple. This lot has three wells very close, also a dandy City-owned water sump for the drainage of the housing project. I have no illusions that the oil men will remove those wells and the City will do away with that water sump, just because I would like to increase the value of our lot. This lot was purchased with my eyes open.

I own no wells. My husband or I are not in any way connected with the oil business, but we do have children. Three children ages 8 and 6 years and one pre-school. These children are our responsibility—not the oil men! As a parallel for this discussion I bring up the subject of railroads, tracks, and trains. We live one block from Madrid. Our children, and many others, cross these tracks at Eldorado going to and from school. They cross the street, go down in a hole across the tracks and out to another street. "Attractive Nuisances"—What child (of any age) isn't attracted to a train. Should I propose these tracks be covered by a wire mesh cage? Or better still the trains be re-routed, because of my children. Or for my own selfishness (as it was brought up by a gentleman at the meeting)—wells are unsightly and noisy at night! Trains make quite a racket, smoke, and are no asset to my property.

I believe if I lived under

this delusion, I would have trouble raising a family. The train, the wells, and even automobiles have been around long before my children. It's up to their father and me to teach them where they belong and where they DO NOT belong. We can't do away with all hazards rather than educate the children.

A little cooperation with the school system and the oil men could work out a plan whereby the children could be taken on a field trip to a well and sump—explanations given and the dangers pointed out. Most of their curiosity would be satisfied and the children would take pride in the wells and the oil industry as do the individuals that own the wells. The children take field trips to the police station, fire station, dairies, and other places. Why not educate them with the great work of the oil industry?

It was said many times at the meeting, "there are producers and producers." Let's face it, there are people and people, parents and parents, and then there is the real estate business!

Mrs. Pat Miles
1415 Anapola Ave.

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald
Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Monday. Entered as second class matter Jan. 20, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.



1819 Gramercy Ave.
FA 8-1000

W. KING WILLIAMS, Publisher
GEO. W. PFEIL, General Mgr.
REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor

Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 21870, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Subscription Rates:
By Carrier, 30c a Month.
Mail Subscriptions \$3.60 per year. Circulation office FAIR-fax 8-4004.

Save the Trees

Editor, Torrance Herald:

What group or groups are responsible for allowing the destruction of the beautiful trees planted along Sepulveda Blvd. just west of Hawthorne Blvd.?

These trees formerly ran in an unbroken row along Sepulveda, but now over eight blocks have been lighted by Milton Kauffman's crew, and the trees lie withering in the dust.

The trees are a mature stand of palms and deadwoods which have grown all these years unattended and unwatered to their present height.

Over half of the originally planted trees have not yet been destroyed. There is still time to save the rest.

The majority of the people certainly desire to retain these trees. Not only are they things of beauty, but they also raise property values.

An increase in the set back requirement of only a couple of feet could have saved these trees.

There are still more of these trees along Torrance and Sepulveda Boulevards. Must they all be destroyed, or can the consciousness of our officials be aroused to save them.

We urge that steps be taken to preserve these trees!

R. T. BARRETT,
Chairman
Save the Trees
Committee

IT'S A FACT by JERRY CAHILL



THINGS TO TALK ABOUT
BY FRANKLIN I. MEINE
Editor, American Peoples Encyclopedia

LONG-WINGED SWIFTS SOMETIMES FLY A THOUSAND MILES FOR FOOD FOR THEIR YOUNG. THE BABY BIRDS CAN SURVIVE SEVERAL DAYS BY BECOMING INACTIVE.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY IS USING A LISTENING ROOM WHERE STUDENTS MAY HEAR RECORDED MASTERPIECES OF LITERATURE. READING IS ALSO REQUIRED.

MARILYN BELL, the first person to swim Lake Ontario from Youngstown, N.Y. to Toronto, She was named "Canada's Woman of the Year" and received about \$50,000 in prizes.

SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES

NOW AVAILABLE IN SIZES TO MEET YOUR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

California Bank

Torrance Office, 1329 Sartori Ave., Arthur O. Olsea, Vice-President